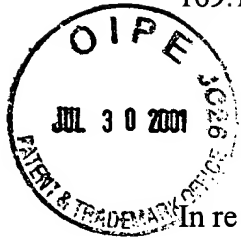


169.1418

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

CAMERON BOLITHO BROWNE, et al.

Application No.: 09/379,722

Filed: August 24, 1999

 For: METHOD AND APPARATUS
 FOR ORIENTING A CHARACTER:
 STROKE

Examiner: C. Harrison

Group Art Unit: 2672

July 27, 2001

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 Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the June 27, 2001 Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Group I, namely, Claims 1-29, 32-60 and 63-91. The election is made with traverse.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the claims in Groups II and III, while differing in specific claim language, are nonetheless all directed to similar inventive subject matter, therefore making restriction between these claims improper. All of the independent claims of the present application are directed to the same invention since all claims comprise the common novel feature of generating first and second vectors and

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Mark J. Itri

Name of Attorney for Applicant

Signature: [Signature] Date of Signature: 7/27/01

comparing the first and second vector so as to determine a direction of a space curve, wherein the determined direction of the space curve is along the curve from a first endpoint to a second endpoint and which is closest to the selected desired direction. Moreover, each of the independent claims of Groups I and II are directed to generic forms of the invention and have the same generic utility. For example, Claim 1 is directed to a method of orienting a space curve wherein a space curve has two endpoints and, similarly, Claim 30 is directed to a method of orienting a finite n-dimensional space curve, wherein the space curve has two endpoints. It should be noted that as the space curve of Claim 1 has two endpoints, it is thus finite and also includes within its scope any dimension, except one. Consequently, all Claims of Groups I and II are directed to orienting a finite n-dimensional space curve that has two endpoints. With respect to Group III, the Group III set of claims are directed to a specific application of the generic features of the invention.

Applicants submit that the combination of elements that are recited in Claim 1 are substantially the same as those required in Claim 31, and that the only sub-combination within the set of claims is substantially the steps of Claim 1 applied to orienting a character stroke as opposed to a space curve. Therefore, removing the elements that are common to Claim 1 from Claim 31, would render Claim 31 to just a method of orienting a character stroke without any actual method steps. In this regard, the Examiner has provided no example or indication of how anyone of the alleged sub-combinations has utility other than as disclosed in the combination. As such, the Examiner has not met the burden pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121 in showing a one-way distinctiveness between claims and that one of the sub-combinations has utility other than in the disclosed combination. Accordingly, for at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request

reconsideration of the restriction requirement and examination of all claims in Groups I, II and III.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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